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### Note by the Secretary-General

**Addendum**

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# 1. Cousteau Society

**Special consultative status granted in 1995**

## Aims and purposes

The Cousteau Society is a non-profit, membership-supported organization dedicated to the protection and improvement of the quality of life for present and future generations. Founded in 1973 by Captain Jacques-Yves Cousteau (1910-1997), the Society has more than 150,000 members worldwide. The Society believes that only an informed and alerted public can best make the decisions necessary to protect and manage the world's natural resources.

Cousteau teams have explored the water system throughout the world for the past five decades. Their unique observations have been documented in more than 40 books, eight sets of filmstrips, four feature films and 120 television documentary films which have helped millions of people understand and appreciate the fragility of life on our water planet.

The Society's commitment to education is further advanced by its publications — *Calypso Log*, for adults and *Dolphin Log*, its award-winning children's magazine. The Society also speaks in testimony and counsel to governing bodies and leaders on issues of global concern and supports a wide range of environmental protection efforts at the national and international level.

## Participation in United Nations activities

The Cousteau Society has participated actively in a number of United Nations conferences, including the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development (UNCED), the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), and the 1995 World Summit on Social Development. Captain Jacques-Yves Cousteau and Cousteau Society staff participated in each of these important meetings and in the preparatory sessions leading up to them. The Society is also interested in the implementation of the programmes of actions adopted by these conferences.

The Society has participated in the annual meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development every year since its inception and the special session of the General Assembly in 1997 to review the results of UNCED. It regularly consults with government officials, particularly the United States delegation, on various agenda items and related issues.

The Society publishes articles in its magazines on a wide range of issues of interest to the United Nations. *Calypso Log*, for example, regularly reports on the activities of the Commission on Sustainable Development and on issues of general interest to the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies, including agriculture research and food production, fisheries management, biodiversity, population, sustainable development, and water issues.

## Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

In recognition of the Year of the Ocean (1998), the Cousteau Society, in cooperation with UNESCO and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, conducted a four-month exploration of the Caspian Sea. The Society's vessel *Alcyone* visited all five countries surrounding the sea, documenting its activities through film and written material. The expedition stressed the need for international cooperation in the sustainable management of critical resources, including sturgeon, wetlands and energy resources.

Over the past decade, the Cousteau Society has also worked closely with UNESCO in developing recommendations on the right of future generations to a healthy environment. The Society's "Bill of Rights for Future Generations" was submitted to the Executive Council of UNESCO in the fall of 1994. In September 1997, after several years of consideration, a working group of governmental experts agreed to a draft declaration on the safeguarding of future generations, based on the proposal originally submitted by the Cousteau Society.

The Society closely followed activities related to the International Conference on Water and Sustainable Development (Paris, March 1998) and participated in meetings leading up to the Conference.

## Other relevant activities

As a non-governmental organization with long-term involvement in environmental and sustainable development activities, the Cousteau Society has a broad interest in many of the activities undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations. The Society is particularly interested in the implementation of international conventions on biodiversity, climate change, fisheries, and desertification.

With its focus on marine issues, the Cousteau Society has urged the development of a protocol on marine biodiversity conservation under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Society also promotes the sustainable development of small island developing States and is a strong supporter of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), a partnership among nations seeking to implement chapter 17 of Agenda 21 for the benefit of coral reefs and related ecosystems. In this regard, the Society participated in the development of the "renewed call for action" which ICRI developed during the first International Tropical Marine Ecosystem Management Symposium, (Townsville, Australia, November 1998).

The Cousteau Society has developed a number of substantive recommendations for the conservation of coral reefs which it has advanced at the national and international level. The Society has also continued to work with the World Bank to help direct further attention in this area (e.g., 1997 World Bank Conference on Challenges and Opportunities for the Sustainable Management of Coral Reefs, dedicated in memory of Captain Jacques-Yves Cousteau).

## 2. Four Directions Council

**Special consultative status granted in 1983**

### Aims and purposes

Four Directions Council was organized by the grass-roots leadership of five like-minded indigenous nations in North America. Its principal aim has been increasing the accessibility and responsiveness of the United Nations system to indigenous peoples, with a view to advancing the struggle of indigenous peoples for self-determination, and encouraging peoples to play a larger role in addressing global issues such as sustainable development and peacemaking.

### Changes in focus and operations

As the relationship of indigenous peoples to the United Nations has changed, Four Directions Council has shifted the focus of its work. The turning point occurred in 1993, the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, which Four Directions Council had promoted actively, from the Commission on Human Rights to the level of the General Assembly. by 1993, indigenous peoples had achieved recognition as a "major group" at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and as distinct holders of individual and collective rights at the World Conference on Human Rights. The draft of a declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples was completed and submitted to the Commission on Human Rights, and the General Assembly, in its resolution 49/214, had called for the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people within the United Nations.

Although indigenous peoples had made considerable progress in gaining access to United Nations decision-making processes by 1993 and had grown visible and outspoken at United Nations conferences and meetings, it became clear to Four Directions Council that:

(a) Transnational corporations and trade liberalization had become the principal threat to the lands and survival of indigenous peoples in the 1990s;

(b) The primary responsibility for global management of trade and investment had been assigned to international bodies such as the World Trade Organization in which indigenous peoples had thus far played no role at all;

(c) The United Nations system had not yet established a capacity for effectively supporting indigenous peoples at the grass-roots level in urgent struggles with corporations over lands and resources.

Indeed, the United Nations had not taken any steps to implement the recommendations of the Centre on Transnational Corporations in its report "Transnational investments and operations on the lands of indigenous peoples" (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/40), including the recommendation for the creation of a United Nations database in this field.

Four Directions Council resolved to take the initiative and re-focus its activity on the evaluation and management of corporate conduct and international trade as

they relate to the lands and territories of indigenous peoples. Three principal goals were set:

(a) Establishment of a network of indigenous peoples' organizations at the grass-roots level, particularly in the developing countries, for the exchange of strategic information about their experiences in dealing with particular corporations and industries;

(b) Preparation and publication of technical studies of corporate conduct and of the most effective approaches indigenous peoples have found for achieving some measure of control over corporate activities within their traditional territories;

(c) Promotion, among indigenous peoples, of strategies for obtaining effective access to the international and regional bodies responsible for managing trade, finance, intellectual property rights, and the development of private international law.

Four Directions Council activities had been carried out entirely by unpaid community volunteers. No fund-raising had been done, and there had been no budget. Of necessity, that would change in 1994, when it became apparent to Four Directions Council that achieving its new goals would require considerable research and administration.

## Significant new activities since 1994

To support the development of an information-sharing network and preparation of technical studies, Four Directions Council has, since 1994:

(a) Established collaborative relationships with three academic programmes that serve indigenous peoples (the Department of Native American Studies at the University of Lethbridge, the Native Law Centre of the University of Saskatchewan, and the Institute for Indigenous Government in Vancouver, British Columbia) and with First Peoples Worldwide, a newly established international development foundation controlled by indigenous peoples;

(b) Obtained more than $100,000 in research grants and contracts from the MacArthur Foundation, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), International Labour Organization, and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. These funds have been used to employ students (chiefly indigenous people) to conduct research and to maintain regular telephone contact with cooperating grass-roots indigenous organizations in developing countries;

(c) Organized a documentation centre at the University of Lethbridge (in the heart of the traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy) with United Nations documents and print, interview and multimedia materials obtained from indigenous communities through the network.

## Preliminary results of initiatives

As a result of these initiatives, Four Directions council has been able to contact and exchange strategic information with more than 150 grass-roots indigenous peoples' organizations (86 per cent of them in 19 developing countries), chiefly by

telephone and fax, and to build an extensive case-study database on the conduct of transnational corporations and the responses of indigenous peoples.

The first publication resulting from this new programme of work, *Effective Negotiation by Indigenous Peoples: An Action Guide with Special Reference to North America*, includes case studies written in collaboration with community activists from six North American indigenous nations. It was issued by the International Labour Organization in June 1997.

A second book, *Corporate Conduct and Indigenous Peoples: Impacts, Strategies, Outcomes*, is in preparation. It will include case studies written in collaboration with community activists from 20 indigenous peoples in Latin America, South-East Asia, North America, and the Russian Federation.

In addition, Four Directions Council has contributed to information workshops on globalization; trade liberalization, and indigenous peoples throughout Canada and the United States, with the aim of mobilizing North American indigenous peoples and non-governmental organizations to take advocacy initiatives at the WTO, WIPO, and regional trade organizations.

In addition to these new initiatives, Four Directions Council has continued to send representatives to the annual sessions of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the working group of the Commission on Human Rights entrusted with elaborating a final text of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Representatives also attended meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), established under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Vancouver International Summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Council (APEC).

## 3. International Electrotechnical Commission

**Special consultative status granted in 1979**

### Aims and purposes

Founded in 1906, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) prepares and publishes international standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies. IEC was founded as a result of a resolution passed at the International Electrical Congress held in St. Louis in 1904. The membership consists of more than 50 participating countries, including all the world's major trading nations and a growing number of industrializing countries.

### IEC membership

In the period 1995-1998 IEC membership expanded from 51 member countries to 60. The introduction of associate and pre-associate membership categories has encouraged new members from developing countries.

### Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

IEC has participated in meetings of the following bodies of the Economic Commission for Europe during the reporting period:

(a) Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development, (Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies);

(b) Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods;

(c) Committee on Power Distribution;

(d) Committee on Electronic Data Transfer.

IEC maintains contact with the following United Nations agencies through exchange of documents and reciprocal attendance at meetings:

(a) World Trade Organization. Observer status on the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade;

(b) International Labour Organization. Liaison in the field of live working, electrical installations through IEC technical committees;

(c) International Telecommunication Union (ITU)-R. Radiocommunications Bureau; liaison with study groups;

(d) ITU-T. Telecommunication standardization; liaison with study groups;

(e) World Health Organization. Liaison in the fields of medical equipment, non-ionizing radiation.

## 4. International Federation of Associations of the Elderly

**General consultative status granted in 1991**

The International Federation of Associations of the Elderly (FIAPA) was founded in Paris on 26 September 1980. It works in close cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the culture and education sectors, and with the World Health Organization (WHO). In Europe, the Federation is one of the five members of the European Commission's Liaison Group on the Elderly.

The Federation owes its international prestige to its originality: it consists solely of associations of elderly persons who, in this way, are taking their fate into their own hands. Established with the participation of four European countries, it now covers some 50 countries around the world.

This success clearly reflects an expectation in need of expression: that the elderly should remain integrated in society and that efforts should be made to strengthen their role and place in society as full participants in development.

### Regular activities

The Federation is universal and apolitical. It promotes the activities of its member associations by fostering the exchange of information, coordinating

concerted actions and organizing meetings such as international symposia (12 symposia in 19 years).

The Federation does not confine itself to reporting to international organizations on the activities of its member associations; it also helps to implement the actions envisaged at the highest international level and takes part in their assessment as a genuine partner. By listening constantly to the concerns of the elderly throughout the world, the Federation identifies the areas of action that seem to be necessary and presents them, in a reasoned manner, in international forums.

## Activities during the period 1995-1998

### 1995

(a) The United Nations designated the Secretary-General of the Federation as a member of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development. On the basis of his proposals, the participation of the elderly in social development was emphasized in the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the Summit in March 1995 in Copenhagen;

(b) An agreement was reached between the Federation and the Social Policy and Development Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs concerning the preparations for the International Year of Older Persons (1999);

The bulk of the initiatives should be taken at the local or professional level, since a society for all ages must be built from the ground up. The Federation decided, in agreement with the United Nations, to establish one or two "1999 focal points" on each continent for the purpose of mobilizing grass-roots associations in the countries concerned with a view to carrying out as many specific projects as possible;

(c) The "1999 focal points" compiled a list of such projects, grouping them according to the four dimensions of the conceptual framework defined by the United Nations, while the Federation itself was responsible for preparing a global list and proposing that the United Nations should incorporate the most significant projects into the official world programme.

### 1996

(a) Meeting organized by the Ibero-American Centre for the Elderly (CITED) and attended by Ms. Rosemary Lane, representing the United Nations. The Board of Directors and the Scientific Council presented the Federation's objectives and missions to the Latin American associations;

(b) First European meeting of elderly persons under the distinguished patronage of the President of Hungary and of the various Ministries, which the Federation was invited to attend;

(c) Dissemination to all member associations of the Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development;

(d) Twentieth anniversary of the Federation of Rural Elderly of Tarn-et-Garonne, attended by Ambassador H. Fodha for the United Nations and Ms. C.

Gómez of the European Commission. Discussion of the topic "The role and place of the elderly in our society";

(e) Discussion of the topic "The social life of the elderly and action in the health field" for the tenth anniversary of the Martinique association member of the Federation.

**1997**

(a) Arrangements by the Board of Directors and the Scientific Council for the Santander 1998 symposium;

(b) Statement by the Federation at the plenary meeting of the Commission for Social Development, and dissemination of its contribution to the preparations for the International Year of Older Persons on the general topic "The participation of older persons in the life of society";

(c) Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(d) Formation of a temporary Executive Board consisting of representatives of the four founding member countries: Belgium (Ms. Charlier Guillaume), France (Mr. de Clarens, Mr. Deboise and Mr. Pinsault), Italy (Mr. Bertoldi) and Spain (Mr. Roig and Mr. Chato); a representative of Portugal (Ms. Moura); and a representative of the Scientific Council (Mr. Hillenius) to improve the preparation and dissemination of the Federation's actions, but also to facilitate the work of the Board of Directors;

(e) Eleventh international symposium of the Federation, attended by regional and local authorities and representatives of international bodies: Mr. Sidorenko (United Nations), Ms. Gómez (European Commission), Ms. Winter Brathwate (UNESCO) and Mr. Napalkov (WHO); also attended by associations from 19 countries, including, for the first time, China;

(f) Decision to undertake a survey on "Adolescents of yesterday and today" in the context of a society for all ages.

**1998**

(a) Publication and dissemination of the pamphlet "Horizon 99" in French, Spanish and English, and initiation of the survey on the four continents where the Federation is represented. The originality of this initiative consisted of bringing elderly persons and adolescents together, having them share their experiences and identifying areas of solidarity to help bridge the generation gap. An analysis of the responses will be discussed in a presentation at the September 1999 event planned by the Federation;

(b) Meeting of the European Commission Liaison Group. The Federation strengthens its position;

(c) Meeting with local authorities and representatives of Italian associations during the meeting of the Federation's Board of Directors and Scientific Council, and dissemination of "FIAPA Infos No. 6";

(d) Establishment of the Arab-African Federation, consisting of 11 countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco,

Palestine, Senegal, Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia), with the participation of the Federation on the theme "Older persons and intergenerational solidarity";

(e) Signing of a cooperation agreement between the Federation and the International Association of the Third Age Universities;

(f) Establishment of FIAPA Europe, headed by Mr. Bertoldi;

(g) Establishment, by the French Government, of a Steering Committee for the events to be held in 1999, the International Year of Older Persons. The Federation was represented by Mr. Magarian, general delegate, and by Dr. Fessard, Secretary of our Scientific Council;

(h) The United Nations decided to launch the International Year of Older Persons on 1 October. An official opening ceremony was held, simultaneously and in liaison with New York and Geneva, at the Trocadéro on the Human Rights Plaza, in the presence of Ms. Hermange, European Deputy and Deputy Mayor of Paris, and of a number of schoolchildren. The opening meeting took place at the Musée de l'Homme in the context of the exhibit "6 billion people". A message from the President of the Republic, Mr. Jacques Chirac, was read out by Mr. Magarian. Ms. Brundtland, Director-General of WHO, made a statement live from Geneva in a two-way broadcast. Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, through his representative in Paris, Ms. Seguin Horton, made his statement simultaneously as a result of the time difference. Mr. Colin Power, Assistant Director-General of UNESCO, addressed the gathering on behalf of Mr. Frederico Mayor, Director-General of UNESCO. A message from Ms. Martine Aubry, Minister of Employment and Solidarity, was read out by Mr. Michel Thierry, Chairman of the Steering Committee for the International Year.

President Rey had been asked to give a presentation on "how to cultivate the art of living".

Also on 1 October, in Brussels, a conference organized by the European Parliament was held on the topic "Older citizens in the twenty-first century". The Federation was represented by Mr. Guido Verbrugghe, Secretary of the Scientific Council.

In cooperation with the Fondation IPSEN, the Federation organized a parade across Paris that was a true celebration of all ages, in which the 10 decades of life were symbolized by two parades: a nautical one on the Seine, consisting of 10 boats, and a simultaneous one consisting of 20 cars accompanied by four motorcycles, which also symbolized the 10 age groups from 1900 to 2000;

(i) Symposium at the National Assembly on "How can we save our pensions?" Statement by the Federation;

(j) "FIAPA Infos No. 8". Feature on "The United Nations and WHO in the context of the International Year of Older Persons";

(k) First international meeting organized by the University of the Third Age (UNATE), a member association, under the auspices of the Federation and attended by international bodies (United Nations, UNESCO, WHO and the European Commission) on the theme "The participation of the elderly in the life of society". Thirty countries represented; over 1,000 participants. The General Assembly of the Federation was convened during this period. It adopted an Institutional Declaration

aimed at changing society's perception of the elderly. This declaration was publicized not only among the associations, but also, and particularly, in all political, economic and social spheres;

(l) The Federation launched a solidarity operation for victims of hurricane Mitch in Central America, sending medicine in cooperation with Oeuvres Hospitalières Françaises de l'Ordre de Malte;

(m) Participation of the Federation official for European affairs in a symposium organized by the Austrian Ministry of the Environment, Youth and the Family;

(n) Participation in the European conference on "Anti-discrimination: the way forward".

## 5. International Real Estate Federation

**Special consultative status granted in 1995**

The International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI) is a worldwide network of professionals involved with real property. It was founded in 1949, is based in Paris and operates chapters in 58 countries. Membership comprises some 4,500 individual real estate professionals, 117 national associations with over 1 million members, 26 universities and other institutions of higher learning.

### Activities

**1995**

Participated in the entire preparatory process for the Habitat II Conference. Also attended the Conference on Population and Development and the sessions of the Commission on Social Development and of the Commission on Sustainable Development. FIABCI representative to Geneva presented a report to the fifty-sixth session of the ECE Committee on Human Settlements.

**1996**

During the Habitat II Conference, held in Istanbul in June 1996, FIABCI sponsored and conducted round tables, participated in the Partners Forum and attended follow-up meetings in Nairobi. FIABCI held a joint meeting with the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG). FIABCI presented a one-day seminar on urban/rural linkages. It participated as a panellist at World Habitat Day observance in New York (October). A FIABCI representative to Geneva presented a report on the results of the Habitat II Conference, particularly the "best practices" followed by actions and policies of local authorities, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. It set up a Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network. Members participated in and addressed the World Valuation Congress.

**1997**

FIABCI has held meetings in Paris related to the implementation of Agenda 21 at approximately two-year intervals. It has conducted studies on housing for the

elderly in cities affected by natural and man-made disasters and has investigated the effect of development on slums. FIABCI presented a report to the fifty-eighth session of the ECE Committee on Housing, Building and Planning (ECE/HBP) on the theme "Strategies for urban renovation and modernization of housing", drawing on the collective experience of its professionals in real estate.

**1998**

FIABCI has sponsored several human settlement caucuses during successive meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It has also contributed to the annual World Habitat Day observances held in New York. FIABCI officially put at the disposal of ECE/HBP its organization and membership to facilitate contracts and the work of the Committee on Human Settlements.

**1999**

During the first Preparatory Committee meeting for the five-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, held in May in Nairobi, FIABCI, prompted by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, launched the Global Housing Foundation (GHF), which is supported financially by the private real estate sector. Since its inception, the Foundation has been able to raise funds to build a "pilot project" of 50 houses as an example of public/private sector cooperation, mirrored in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

### Publications

Since 1995, FIABCI has produced several publications:

(a) *The Homeless: Perspectives by Sixteen International Journalists*;

(b) *The Property Industry and the Environment*;

(c) *Providing Better Housing for the Elderly*;

(d) *Summary of the Proceedings of Dialogue No. 6 and FIABCI's conclusions*.

## 6. International Service for Human Rights

**Special consultative status granted in 1991**

The International Service for Human Rights was set up in 1984 in order to promote the implementation of international human rights standards, declarations and principles. It aims to assist and empower human rights defenders and organizations by, among other things, helping them in their contribution to the Economic and Social Council, its subsidiary bodies and other meetings and conferences of the United Nations.

### Basic principles

The work of the International Service is illustrated by some principles that have inspired the organization for the past 15 years:

(a) Information is acquired on the United Nations human rights programme, then analysed, processed and presented in various forms, to be of maximum use to human rights defenders;

(b) The International Service launches projects and initiatives that aim to enable victims and human rights defenders to have better access to United Nations procedures. It also seeks to create links between national and international non-governmental organizations and diplomats;

(c) The International Service believes that national human rights defenders and organizations have an irreplaceable role to play in promoting and protecting universal principles of human rights within their own cultures and socio-economic situations;

(d) The objective of each activity is to empower human rights defenders and non-governmental organizations;

(e) The programmes of the International Service provide human rights defenders with a regular service which can be adapted to the needs and priorities of users.

## Programmes

For more than 10 years, the International Service for Human Rights has operated through four main programmes:

(a) Information programme: Publication of the quarterly review, *Human Rights Monitor*; the *HR-DOC-DH* series; *HR-Dossiers* and orientation manuals. The *Human Rights Monitor* reports on all of the United Nations meetings in Geneva and New York dealing with human rights. Over 5,000 copies in English and French are sent to subscribers throughout the world, half of whom receive it free of charge. Diplomats in Geneva and New York have told us that they regard it as "essential reading" to follow how United Nations bodies and mechanisms deal with human rights;

The *HR-DOC-DH* includes technical data on United Nations meetings — for example, the results of resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Human Rights, which is given to all governmental and non-governmental organization representatives on the last day of a given meeting. The *HR-Dossiers* are timely briefings on a single current United Nations debate — for example, in 1999 on the permanent forum on indigenous peoples. These series are provided to representatives of government, non-governmental organizations and indigenous groups;

(b) Education and training programme, which includes the Geneva training courses and in-region training sessions, mainly for representatives of non-governmental organizations. Every year the International Service also gives training to governmental representatives, either in United Nations/ILO courses or sessions organized by academic centres such as the Graduate Institute in Geneva;

(c) Liaison programme, which includes joint initiatives for specific objectives, networking, projects on the rights of non-governmental organizations in the United Nations system, projects on the protection of human rights defenders, projects on economic, social and cultural rights. In this programme, the International

Service facilitates contacts between non-governmental organizations and diplomats by organizing meetings between them on specific issues;

(d) Advisory programme, which includes practical advice and assistance to visitors as well as legal advice for those wishing to use procedures. The recipients of our advice vary, from non-governmental organizations and United Nations officials to the press and diplomats.

### Monitoring of United Nations meetings

The International Service for Human Rights participates, monitors and reports each year on the following regular United Nations meetings, in Geneva and New York, dealing with human rights matters: General Assembly, in particular the Third Committee (New York); Economic and Social Council, substantive session in July (Geneva and New York); Economic and Social Council Committee on NGOs (New York); Commission on Human Rights (Geneva); the Commission's thematic and standard-setting working groups (Geneva); the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Geneva); the Subcommission's working groups on minorities, slavery and indigenous peoples (Geneva); all treaty monitoring bodies (Geneva and New York); annual meetings of the chairpersons of the treaty bodies (Geneva); annual conferences of ILO and WHO (Geneva).

Other meetings related to United Nations conferences (e.g., on racism) are also followed and reports are provided.

## 7. North-South XXI

**Web site: www.nordsud21.ch**

**Special consultative status since 1995**

### Aims

North-South XXI is an international non-governmental organization whose aim is to contribute to the analysis of human rights, as understood in the 1993 Vienna Declaration, by bringing together eminent persons and organizations from the industrialized world and the third world. North-South XXI, which is active on all continents, has the priority goal of enriching the North-South dialogue, particularly in the Mediterranean and between Europe and Africa, without neglecting the situation of human rights in the rest of the world. North-South XXI tries to take more specific action on the rights of persecuted individuals and forgotten peoples. Accordingly, it participates actively in the work of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (since 1994). In addition, North-South XXI is particularly active in the International Labour Organization (ILO) (special status since 1996).

## Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its organs and/or in United Nations conferences

Since obtaining consultative status, North-South XXI has participated in every session of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and in the sessions of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. It has contributed, in particular, through its many oral (15) and written (31) statements. It should be noted that, at these sessions, North-South XXI provides logistical assistance to representatives of Native American organizations. In addition, North-South XXI participated in many United Nations events throughout this period:

**1995**

NGO Forum on Social Development (Copenhagen);

World Conference on Women (Beijing);

NGO Conference held in connection with the Euro-Mediterranean Conference (Barcelona);

International Commission against the Embargo (London);

Meeting of non-governmental organizations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations (Berne).

**1996**

Non-governmental organizations conference at UNESCO (Paris);

Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO) (Geneva);

NGO Committee on Family Integration in Social Progress and Development (Vienna).

**1997**

NGO conference on the elimination of all forms of discrimination (Geneva);

Diplomatic Conference on an International Total Ban on Anti-personnel Landmines (Oslo);

International conference on solidarity with the Palestinian people (Vienna);

International symposium on contemporary forms of violence and the culture of peace (Morocco);

Workshop of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (Banjul).

**1998**

Conference in Support of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (Brussels);

United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People (Cairo);

Economic and Social Council symposium on embargoes (Rome);

Forum 98 on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Geneva).

## Cooperation with United Nations agencies and specialized agencies

Since North-South XXI has had special status with ILO since 1996, it participates in the annual International Labour Conference (Geneva).

## Other activities

### Action to implement United Nations resolutions

By organizing and participating in many symposia and seminars at the international, national and local levels, North-South XXI has played an important role in promoting and implementing the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**1995**

Organization of a lecture series on human rights in Africa, in cooperation with the Inter-African Human Rights Union (France).

**1996**

"Morality for the twenty-first century" (Geneva);

Organization of an international symposium on human and peoples' rights in Africa (Tripoli).

**1997**

"Africa, the Great Lakes region and human rights" (Geneva);

"Islam and the West" (Morocco);

"The Mediterranean: two banks and two civilizations: complementarity or conflict?" (Tripoli);

"Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" (Geneva).

**1998**

Symposium on the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Geneva);

Symposium on Western human rights declarations and the Great Green Document of the Jamahiriya (Tripoli);

"Mankind in the grip of globalization" (Geneva);

Seminar on immigration and first-generation French nationals (France).

### Consultation and cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat and preparation of documents

North-South XXI has contributed a number of times to reports of the United Nations Secretariat and to the work of special rapporteurs (particularly the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, in July 1997) and of various working

groups (particularly the Working Group of Intergovernmental Experts on the Human Rights of Migrants, in October 1997).

**Other examples of advisory activities**

North-South XXI has made vigorous efforts to make the general public aware of current human rights issues through its Internet site and through three types of publications: its "Cahiers", of which some 20 issues have been published thus far; its magazine (semi-annual); its press clippings and press releases; and its information bulletin (two issues a year).

The catalogue of publications is partially available on the Internet site of North-South XXI (www.nordsud21.ch). These publications are available upon request.

## 8. Physicians for Human Rights

**Special consultative status granted in 1995**

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) mobilizes the health professions and enlists support from the general public to protect and promote the human rights of all people.

Since 1986, PHR members have worked to stop torture, disappearances, and political killings by Governments and opposition groups; to improve health and sanitary conditions in prisons and detention centres; to investigate the physical and psychological consequences of violations of humanitarian law in internal and international conflicts; to defend medical neutrality and the right of civilians and combatants to receive medical care during times of war; to protect health professionals who are victims of violations of human rights; and to prevent medical complicity in torture and other abuses.

PHR conducts educational and training projects for health professionals, members of the judiciary and human rights advocates on the application of medical and forensic skills to the investigation of violations of human rights. PHR bases its actions on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights and humanitarian agreements.

As one of the founding members of the steering committee of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Physicians for Human Rights shared the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the Campaign and its coordinator Jody Williams. PHR currently serves on the Coordinating Committee of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

### Projects relating to the work of the United Nations

**Development of the Istanbul Protocol: International Standards for the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Ill Treatment**

During the past 20 years, much has been learned about torture and its consequences, but there have been no international guidelines for documentation. This situation changed on 9 August 1999, when dozens of experts submitted the first

comprehensive set of guidelines for the documentation and investigation of torture: *Manual on Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (Istanbul Protocol).

The Protocol is the result of three years of analysis, research and drafting undertaken by more than 75 forensic doctors, physicians, psychologists, human rights monitors, and lawyers who represent 40 organizations and institutions from 15 countries. Dr. Vincent Iacopino of Physicians for Human Rights was the initiator and primary coordinator of the project. The project was conceived in March 1996, after an international symposium, "Medicine and human rights", held at the Department of Forensic Medicine, Cukurova University Medical Faculty, Adana, by the Turkish Medical Association. The drafting process culminated at a meeting in Istanbul in March 1999, when the *Manual* reached its final form. The documentation methods contained in the *Manual* also apply to other contexts, including human rights investigations and monitoring, assessment of individuals seeking political asylum, the defence of individuals who "confess" to crimes during torture, and assessment of needs for the care of torture victims. In the case of health professionals who are coerced to neglect, misrepresent, or falsify evidence of torture, the *Manual* also provides an international point of reference for health professionals and adjudicators alike.

The Istanbul Protocol also outlines minimum standards for State adherence to ensure the effective documentation of torture in its "Principles on the Effective Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment". These principles have been submitted to United Nations officials for consideration by the General Assembly. Official publication of the *Manual* by the United Nations is expected by the year 2000. In the meantime electronic copies of the version submitted to the United Nations may be obtained from several web sites (www.phrusa.org, www.hrft.org.tr, and www.tihv.org.tr).

United Nations officials who participated in the final conference related to the development of the Protocol included: Ms. Mary Robinson, High Commissioner for Human Rights; Mr. Nigel Rodley, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture; Mr. Alessio Bruni, Secretary to the Committee Against Torture; Mr. Daniel Premont, Secretary to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture; Mr. David Weissbrodt, Member, United Nations Subcommission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

**Forensic work for international criminal tribunals**

Between 1995 and 1998, PHR provided extensive medico-legal expertise and consultation to the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and for Rwanda (ICTR). In December 1994, PHR conducted an educational seminar in The Hague for the Tribunal's staff. The two-day seminar, held at the request of Prosecutor Richard J. Goldstone, covered the medico-legal investigation of war crimes and the psychological and sociological aspects of working with survivors of torture and rape. In December 1995 and again in January and March 1996, PHR experts participated in preliminary assessment visits to mass graves in Bosnia. PHR deployed large multinational teams at the request of the Tribunal for extensive exhumation and examination of mass graves in Bosnia, Croatia and Srpska from July through November 1996, including the important sites of the Srebrenica massacres. A PHR team also returned to Vukovar, Croatia, in September 1996 to

complete the excavation of the mass grave at that site. In 1997, PHR established an antemortem database and forensic training programme in Bosnia to work in cooperation with ICTY and local authorities on the recovery and identification of remains.

Since the establishment of the Tribunal for Rwanda, PHR has sent forensic survey teams to that country to assist in the gathering of evidence of war crimes by mapping the mass graves of hundreds of thousands of men, women and children who were slaughtered by government extremists between early April and mid July 1994. In January and February 1996, a 16-person team carried out the exhumation and forensic examination of 500 bodies from a mass grave in the parish of Kibuye in western Rwanda. The team included archaeologists, pathologists and forensic technicians from the United States, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Guatemala and Scotland. In June, a second team returned to Kigali to exhume graves in several sites in the Rwandan capital. During the course of both exhumations, PHR teams gathered important evidence for cases against indicted war criminals. The team examined more than 450 remains from the Kibuye grave itself. Of those, more than half were infants, children and young people under the age of 18. The predominant causes of death were machete wounds and blunt force trauma to the head. Survivors also came forward to identify clothing of loved ones and the process yielded new eyewitnesses to the crimes. PHR's Dr. William Haglund has testified in several cases before ICTR in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania.

In recognition of PHR's efforts, the Tribunal's Chief Prosecutor, Judge Richard Goldstone, wrote to PHR stating the following, "Thank you for the outstanding work done by the team from Physicians for Human Rights. You have unmatched expertise in this field and without your assistance these vital exhumations would in all probability not be possible." Funds for this work were contributed by UNDP, among others.

**Afghanistan mass graves**

Physicians for Human Rights was contacted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNCHR) in early December 1997 with a request for a forensic scientist to travel immediately to Afghanistan to join a United Nations team investigating mass graves near Maaza I Sharif. Dr. Mark Skinner, of Vancouver, an experienced forensic anthropologist, was able to represent PHR on that investigation. The discovery of several mass graves and bodies buried in wells that appeared to be the victims of summary executions caused a stir in the United Nations and in the press. Dr. Skinner has since submitted his report to the United Nations Centre for Human Rights.

**Somalia mass graves**

PHR dispatched two forensic anthropologists, including Dr. William Haglund, director of PHR's International Forensics Program, to northern Somalia in December 1997 at the request of UNCHR. The purpose of the mission was to conduct a preliminary assessment of a large, open mass grave believed to contain bodies of victims of massacres perpetrated by the forces of former Somali leader Siad Barre. The report prepared for the United Nations Centre for Human Rights recommended various options for recovery of remains, forensic evaluation, and training of Somali investigators. The United Nations issued a report of the

investigation in 1999, "Preliminary assessment of mass graves in the vicinity of Hargeisa, Somalia (E/CN.4/1999/103/Add.1).

**Consultation on humanitarian aid to Afghanistan**

On 21 August 1998 PHR's advocacy director, Holly Burkhalter, participated in a meeting in New York at the invitation of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to discuss human rights and humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. Representatives from WHO, UNICEF, and other United Nations agencies attended. PHR had conducted an extensive investigation into the violations of the rights of women and the threat to women's health under the Taliban regime.

**Promotion of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

In 1998 in observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, PHR launched a campaign to educate health professionals about that important document and its relationship to health worldwide. The organization distributed widely a brochure "Forging the Link" and published an article on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association. PHR also organized anniversary events at medical schools and public health schools. PHR Deputy Director Susannah Sirkin and Senior Medical Consultant Dr. Vincent Iacopino co-authored a chapter of the United Nations-sponsored book, *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Fifty Years and Beyond*, and spoke at a ceremony to launch the book at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

**Landmines**

As a founding member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, PHR participated in the signing ceremonies in Ottawa and subsequent conferences that brought together non-governmental organizations, individual Governments and United Nations agencies.

## 9. Prison Fellowship International

**Special consultative status granted in 1983**

Prison Fellowship International (PFI) is a voluntary association of national Prison Fellowship organizations in 88 countries. PFI is involved in a broad range of criminal justice concerns and works through its affiliate organizations to promote participation in criminal justice. PFI provides a worldwide forum for discussing issues and developing awareness concerning crime and the treatment of offenders.

PFI is governed by an international Board of Directors, representing a broad-based membership of community leaders, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens.

PFI has significant interests in United Nations activities concerned with crime and the treatment of offenders, human rights, women, youth and the family, relief and development, and peace.

## Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

PFI has been extensively involved as a member of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (New York). PFI's Vice-President and its Director of Justice Initiatives have participated actively in the regular meetings of the Alliance, and for a period in 1995, PFI's Director of Justice Initiatives chaired the Alliance. In 1995-1998, PFI provided administrative and clerical support to the Alliance by distributing minutes and announcements on behalf of the Executive Secretary. PFI's Vice-President and its Director of Justice Initiatives participated in the Working Party on Restorative Justice and chaired its drafting committee.

PFI sent six delegates to the United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (Cairo, 28 April to 8 May 1995). It conducted ancillary sessions on restorative justice, the treatment and transfer of foreign prisoners, and community involvement in corrections.

PFI's Vice-President and representatives attended and intervened at the seventh and eighth sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to urge that "restorative justice" be included in the agenda for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders.

## Cooperation with United Nations Programmes, bodies, and specialized agencies

PFI representatives continued consultation with representatives of WHO and UNDP concerning the problem of tuberculosis in Eastern European prisons and steps that might be taken to address it.

PFI maintained regular efforts to inform its leadership and membership about the United Nations and to encourage support for United Nations activities. PFI maintained two representatives at United Nations Headquarters in New York, Geneva, and Vienna. Additionally, PFI maintained representatives at the headquarters of the regional economic commissions. Information and news related to United Nations activities was sent to PFI national affiliates regularly and was disseminated through PFI's various publications.

## Other relevant activities

Written and verbal reports on United Nations activities and PFI involvement were routinely included in the agenda of PFI International and its regional meetings. Workshops at PFI's triennial international Congress in Washington, D.C. (fall 1995) and International Council meeting in Manila (fall 1997) focused attention on United Nations activities and standards with respect to human rights, alternatives to imprisonment, victim support and compensation, the treatment of offenders, community involvement in corrections, and restorative justice.

PFI reprinted at its own cost and distributed to its members in English, French, Russian, Chinese and Spanish, the Compendium of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

# 10. SOS Drugs International

**Special consultative status granted in 1995**

In carrying out its activities, SOS Drugs International has formed a number of ideas about the world of drug addiction. For example, the association advocates full respect for the rights of drug users, in accordance with the Lisbon Declaration of 1992, which defines drug addicts as full citizens with rights and duties. Accordingly, the therapeutic programmes of treatment centres and professional aims and practices must seek to enable drug addicts to regain their autonomy and capacity to make choices. Since its establishment, SOS Drugs International has emphasized the need to develop diversified treatment systems. In addition to the provision of support, ever-changing imperatives must be taken into consideration. Helping drug addicts to break their dependency is both relevant and insufficient. It is necessary to provide drug addicts with decent living conditions (harm reduction, emergency shelter, health care) and to break the spiral of exclusion through integration and training. Prevention and information are also among the objectives pursued by the association. SOS Drugs International has taken care not to undertake anything in isolation, without consultation, but to act in full cooperation with the relevant Ministries, local authorities and eminent specialists in the field (doctors, psychologists and sociologists). At the same time, the association has always sought to facilitate contacts among scientists in these various fields so that the resulting exchange of ideas will lead to a common and constructive process of reflection. SOS Drugs International has grown progressively to become France's largest association for the assistance and treatment of drug addicts. It operates in 18 departments and has 400 employees.

## International activities: implementation of cooperation initiatives

Since its establishment, SOS Drugs International has sought to carry out truly international activities aimed not only at the exchange of experiences and the enrichment of knowledge, but also at the establishment of a real network of individual, organizational or institutional partners to address a problem whose extent and seriousness transcend boundaries. Accordingly, for a number of years, the association's competence has also been appreciated abroad, such as when it participated in the establishment of various specialized centres in Europe and South America.

Since 1995, bilateral cooperation programmes have been or are being carried out in Morocco, Lebanon, Jordan, Argentina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and India. These cooperation initiatives are made possible by the confidence which funding sources, primarily the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Commission, have shown in the association. Thus, in Morocco, SOS Drugs International has cooperated since 1995 with the Ar Razi de Salé university psychiatric hospital. This cooperation has included specialized two-month internships in France on drug addiction; training seminars in Rabat-Salé; visits to France by the directors of the Ar Razi Hospital for information missions and contacts with the French authorities; training, equipment and a system, in liaison with the French database "Toxibase", for creating a Moroccan database on drugs and drug addiction; and seminars on drug addiction prevention with officials of the

Ministries participating in the National Narcotics Commission of the Kingdom of Morocco.

These activities are carried out in the context of the technical assistance provided for the opening, in 1998, of the National Drug Addiction Research and Prevention Centre, located on the premises of the Ar Razi Hospital in Rabat-Salé, and the first establishment of its kind in the Maghreb.

Also in Morocco, in 1998, the association will begin to cooperate with the Ministry of Public Health in carrying out a drug addiction action, treatment and prevention programme in the Tanger-Tétouan region. The objectives are fourfold: to establish a shelter for drug addicts; to improve the treatment of drug addicts (internships, seminars); to develop primary and secondary prevention of drug addiction (seminars); and to conduct local surveys on awareness of the problem of drug addiction.

This major cooperation project will take place over a three-year period. It will be financed by the Commission of the European Union, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Public Health of the Kingdom of Morocco and SOS Drugs International.

In Lebanon, in cooperation with the association Soins Infirmiers et Développement Communautaire (Nursing Care and Community Development), a project involving the opening of a centre for the shelter, treatment, rehabilitation and counselling of drug addicts is being conducted. The objectives are: drug addiction prevention and harm reduction; shelter and counselling of drug users prior to treatment; post-treatment support for drug addicts and assistance in their family, social and professional reintegration; and creation of a database on drug addiction from field studies and other studies to elucidate and explain the phenomena of drugs and drug addiction.

To achieve these goals, apart from the opening of the centre and the purchase of equipment (including a minibus for neighbourhood prevention efforts), training seminars will be held in Beirut on the topics "Drug addiction and street work" and "Harm reduction". Specialized two-and-a-half-month workshops in France are also planned.

In Jordan, an assistance project for the preparation of a national master plan to combat drug abuse will be carried out in 1998. This initiative will help to guide Jordan's policy for preventing and combating drug abuse by providing guidelines for balancing national actions in the areas of suppression, prevention and treatment, and by coordinating the work of the various entities involved in the field.

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, SOS Drugs International is discussing the following programme with the association "Doverba": establishment of an information and research centre on drugs and drug addiction; preparation, conduct and use of surveys to clarify the situation of drug addiction in that country; organization of training activities for various categories of professionals (social workers, physicians, teachers, etc.) and trainees; specialized courses in France on drug addiction and conduct of seminars in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and assistance in efforts to harmonize Macedonian laws in the area of drug addiction, through a specialized mission of experts to carry out analyses and discussions with the Macedonians.

In Argentina, SOS Drugs International is cooperating with the Interdisciplinary Research and Assistance Institute in designing a programme of clinical studies in the social and behavioural fields with a view to establishing a network of exchanges and publications to pursue studies and research on drug addiction.

In India, the association is a partner of the National Addiction Research Centre (NARC) in a project to establish a mobile primary care and drug abuse prevention clinic for street children in Bombay.

## Other international activities

Apart from the active participation of members of its teams in various seminars, SOS Drugs International organized international scientific and multidisciplinary symposia at UNESCO in Paris in 1986 and 1994. The proceedings of the latter symposium have been published in French and English. The association's activities and ideas in the area of international cooperation are based in part on its Scientific Council, chaired by Professor Claude Olievenstein and currently composed of 22 members from 16 countries. The association participates regularly in the preparatory meetings and plenary sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna.

SOS Drugs International is also a member of the Vienna Non-Governmental Organizations' Committee on Narcotic Drugs and participates in its meetings. It is accredited as a participating association of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

## Participation in United Nations activities

By virtue of its special consultative status with the Council, SOS Drugs International has participated in many United Nations activities:

**1996**

Sent a delegation to participate in the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (Vienna, 16-25 April 1996).

**1997**

Sent a delegation to participate in the fortieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (Vienna, 17-20 March 1997); sent a delegation to participate in the preparatory meetings for the twentieth special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities (Vienna, 12-17 October 1997 and 2-5 December 1997).

**1998**

Sent a delegation to participate in the forty-first session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (Vienna, 11-13 March 1998); sent a delegation to participate in the special segment to prepare for the twentieth special session of the General Assembly (Vienna, 16-20 March 1998); sent a delegation to participate in the twentieth special session of the General Assembly (New York, 8-10 June 1998); participated in the

meeting of the intergovernmental working group of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to prepare for the next session (Vienna, 14-16 December 1998).

**1999**

Sent a delegation to participate in the forty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (Vienna, 16-25 March 1999), on which occasion the delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco thanked SOS Drugs International for its cooperation initiatives in that country.

### Participation in other United Nations activities

Members of SOS Drugs International and heads of its structures have attended a number of conferences organized jointly by United Nations entities:

**1997**

Eighth International Conference on the Reduction of Drug-Related Harm, co-sponsored by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) (Paris, 23-27 March 1997).

**1998**

Twelfth World AIDS Conference, organized jointly by UNAIDS (Geneva, 28 June to 3 July 1998); assistance missions to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the preparation of a national master plan to combat drugs, based on the principles recommended by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and financed by the Commission of the European Communities.

**1999**

Tenth International Conference on the Reduction of Drug-Related Harm, co-sponsored by UNAIDS (Geneva, 21-25 March 1999).

## 11. St. Joan's International Alliance

**Special consultative status granted in 1971**

### Objectives

Our Alliance, founded in London in 1911, seeks to ensure that the practical equality of rights between women and men is recognized in all fields and on all continents. It is the only Catholic feminist organization that is recognized by both the United Nations and the Vatican (associate member of the Conference of International Catholic Organizations). It is therefore in a crucial position to promote women's advancement throughout the world. Over the past 20 years, the feminist movement has weakened considerably in Europe and in every country in which civil laws have greatly improved. The lack of any progress in the Catholic ecclesiastical sphere has driven many feminists away from Catholic institutions. Despite our recruitment difficulties and our dwindling numbers, we have always maintained our

frankness on these burning issues, on which we have acquired recognized experience.

The need to protect and promote women's rights in many countries of the South has prompted us to pay special attention to these countries. Since 1993, to the extent that we can afford to do so, we have distributed, free of charge, our new quarterly magazine *Terre des Femmes. Sociétés et Religions Nouvelles Internationales* in these countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. This publication provides information on progress, obstacles and initiatives concerning the civil, individual and family rights of women of every continent and every religion. Our most effective efforts today are made by means of this publication and the contacts it affords. The arrival of the Internet has opened up new opportunities and means of action.

## Participation in United Nations meetings

(a) World Conference on Women. Four of our delegates took part, and also took part in the "parallel" Non-Governmental Organizations' Forum on Women in Huairou. Active participation in the debate on female genital mutilation;

(b) Non-governmental organizations' consultation preparatory to the World Conference on Women (Vienna, March 1993). Our delegate in Vienna took part and, following various contacts there, wrote to the World Council of Churches in Geneva asking it to organize a pluralist "Women and Religions" centre at the Non-Governmental Organizations' Forum in Beijing. This was done in Huairou and was called the "Dialogue among Women of Faith" Centre;

(c) International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (Paris, UNESCO, 30 and 31 May 1995). Workshops preparatory to the World Conference on Women: "Towards a 'Platform Plus'". Our association had been invited to attend; the president of our French chapter helped draft the joint "Platform Plus" document which we signed;

(d) Symposium of International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAW) on "Family Rights of Women" (Vienna International Centre, January 1993). Participation of our delegate in Vienna and publication of the proceedings of this meeting;

(e) Non-governmental organizations' conference at the United Nations (New York, September 1997). Our international president participated;

(f) Training. Our Alliance sent one of our members from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a sociologist who had worked as a "rural development agent" in various provinces of her country, to two training sessions on international realities, organized for delegates of non-governmental organizations to United Nations bodies by the International Catholic Centre of Geneva (1994 and 1995).

## Efforts to promote United Nations resolutions

### Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Absolutely ALL of our activities and publications support this Convention and call for its practical implementation in all areas. Our magazine regularly reports on

the achievements, obstacles, initiatives and progress noted in each State. At the national level, our United States chapter, particularly in the state of Missouri, has fought for government ratification of this Convention. For States in the process of drafting a new Constitution (in Africa, for example), our magazines explain the most effective strategies for ensuring that the principle of equal rights between women and men is included. We seek to ensure that religious organizations, especially Catholic ones, in the educational and social fields combat traditional prejudices that bar women's access to knowledge, property and power. See, for example, our critique of the document *World Hunger*, presented by the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum" to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (Rome, October 1996). This document praises women's contribution to development in poor countries, but advocates the preservation of traditional structures in terms of women's status. In preparation for the Synod of Bishops for Asia (Rome, April-May 1998), we expressed appreciation to the Bishops' Conference of Japan, which had demanded that the grave problem of women's status in Asia should be seriously addressed on that occasion and that women should be invited to participate. Our Alliance sent five specific requests to the bishops of Asia in Japan, the Philippines and the Middle East. At the opening of the Synod, the Catholic press agency ADISTA (Rome) sent these requests to all Roman Catholic institutions hosting bishops from Asia on that occasion.

**Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others**

We continue to lobby the Holy See to accede to this Convention, inter alia through our official request to the bishops of Asia, meeting in Rome for the Synod for Asia. This request, which recalled that the Holy See is not a party to the Convention and noted the ravages of the international sex trade in South-East Asia, was widely disseminated in the Catholic world by the Catholic press agencies ADISTA (Rome) and CIP (Brussels). This is a continuation of the direct (and fruitless!) efforts made in this regard by our Alliance in relation to the Holy See in 1981, at the suggestion of the President of the International Abolitionist Federation. We had already published a critical study on "The Catholic Church and Procuring".

Continued cooperation with the International Abolitionist Federation to publicize their warnings and those of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues and the "Le Nid" Movement against any regulation of the profession of prostitution, as is currently being proposed for Europe, inter alia by the Netherlands. Such regulation leads to the legalization and encouragement of procuring. Many articles have appeared in our magazines on the horrors of the international sex trade.

**Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

**Campaign against female genital mutilation**, which has been waged continuously since our first report on this subject in 1952. Despite all our efforts, the Roman Catholic Church, in contrast to the Lutheran and Orthodox Churches of Ethiopia, has never expressly condemned this type of mutilation, which is practised on so many African women, including thousands of Catholic girls. In preparation for the Synod of Bishops for Africa (March 1994), we sent a detailed request on this subject to many African bishops. It had no direct results: the subject was not discussed at the Synod. However, our articles on the Catholic Church's silence on this subject were mentioned and partially reproduced in a major French Catholic

magazine, and two months later, in 1997, some very subtle practical responses on Rome's part were observed. In preparing a draft law in Belgium against the sexual abuse of minors, we supported the proposal of the government commission to include an article condemning the practice of female genital mutilation on minors in Belgium. We then publicized in the press our disappointment (July 1997) when, in the end, this article was deleted and no prevention and education plan was proposed. Since Belgium now has an entirely new Government and Parliament (1999), we plan to renew our efforts.

**1992 UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education**. We nominated the Institute of Women's Law of the University of Oslo, which, in collaboration with the Private Law Department of the University of Zimbabwe at Harare and with financial assistance from NORAD (Norwegian Agency for International Development), had organized, in 1987, a postgraduate course on women's rights law for African jurists, complemented by a master's degree course and a doctoral course in this area. This example spread quickly to nine South-East African countries, with tremendous practical results, down to the "grass roots" of the population, for social justice and development. Our information packet on this subject may prompt some French-language universities to take similar initiatives in the French-speaking African countries.

**Population, demographics, family planning assistance**. We have long criticized the Vatican's position on these problems, particularly in the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development (1994). We have denounced Rome's obscurantism with regard to the population problem; the Holy See's systematic obstruction of the Preparatory Conference (April 1994) through its 147 objections to terminology used in the proposed text; and especially its ban on all contraception, despite the opposing views of the experts convoked by Pope Paul VI to study the issue. These problems are discussed regularly in all issues of our magazine. In our view, their real impact on women's health and lives and on the future of humanity is extremely serious.

**Lecture on Women's Rights Education Courses** for rural African populations, given by a member of our organization, Charles Ntampaka, a Rwandan law professor, who had established and organized these courses at three different levels throughout his country and who discussed his method at our 1997 General Assembly.

## Conclusion

Our Catholic feminist struggle is harsh, but exciting. Despite our great weakness at the present time, we know that our efforts, limited as they may be by the forces at work, are important in some circles. We trust that the small seeds of information we are sowing through our publications, in a somewhat random fashion, will take root one day, here or there, in some part of the world, and will bear fruit for justice and the harmonious development of humanity. It is vital that we retain our status at the United Nations for the survival and development of our activities, which, at this time, would be hard to replace in our specialized area.

## 12. Women, Law and Development International*

**Special consultative status granted in 1995**

Women, Law and Development International (WLDI) is a non-governmental organization committed to the protection and promotion of women's rights globally. WLDI collaborates with researchers, advocates, activists and monitors throughout the world to identify legal, cultural and economic impediments to women's enjoyment of human rights; develop effective activist strategies; and build the capacity of women's groups to advocate internationally and nationally for policies that recognize and protect women's rights. WLDI has been a pioneer in legal literacy and the women's human rights movement. Today, through its capacity-building efforts and collaborative, interdisciplinary research initiatives, WLDI continues to equip women throughout the world with the skills, tools and capacities necessary to "make rights real" for all women. WLDI has worked on several fronts, making important contributions to the global movement for women's rights. Among its accomplishments, WLDI has:

(a) Organized a number of agenda-setting global and regional forums that engaged key women leaders from around the world to articulate strategies for promoting and defending women's rights;

(b) Launched independent regional women's rights organizations in Asia, Africa and Latin America that today are recognized as leaders in advocating for women's rights locally and globally;

(c) Initiated and carried out ground-breaking participatory research projects on women's human rights, violence against women, legal literacy, rights education and economic rights, among other themes, providing a basis for deeper understanding and broader recognition of women's human rights globally;

(d) Produced and disseminated innovative and practical strategy frameworks, "how-to" guides, case studies, fact sheets and other tools for advocacy, including *Women's Human Rights Step by Step* and others.

Between 1995 and 1998, WLDI's work focused mainly on building the capacity of women's non-governmental organizations through clarification of issues and strategies, capacity-building, and advocacy and organizing. WLDI played a role in the Fourth World Conference on Women, conducted research for the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, and for the UNDP *Human Development Report*.

### Activities

#### 1995

In 1995, WLDI's activities focused on preparation for and participation in the Fourth World Conference in Beijing. WLDI advised the NGO Forum office on the design of Forum activities and participated in the NGO Forum and the conference itself. In May 1995 WLDI published *A Women's Rights Agenda for the 90s and Beyond* in Spanish, Russian, French, Arabic and Chinese. The outcome of a process

* Formerly, Institute for Women, Law and Development.

involving more than 120 women's human rights activists from around the world, the *Agenda* includes recommendations targeting the United Nations, States, and NGOs, and was used by many groups to prepare for participation in the Conference and NGO Forum. At the Forum, WLDI released a book, *From Basic Needs to Basic Rights: Women's Claim to Human Rights*. The compilation of essays and case studies represents a cross-section of thinking and activism within the women's human rights movement on a number of critical issues. During the Forum, WLDI also coordinated a workshop on women's human rights advocacy for young NGO leaders.

At the invitation of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, WLDI conducted a survey of laws and practices worldwide related to domestic violence. WLDI sponsored a panel at the NGO Forum together, with the United Nations Special Rapporteur to highlight findings from this research.

In 1995 WLDI was commissioned by UNDP to conduct a comparative review of legal discrimination against women worldwide for inclusion in the *1995 Human Development Report*.

**1996**

In 1996, the Institute for Women, Law and Development changed its name to Women, Law and Development International (WLDI) to better capture the international character of the organization's work.

In 1996, WLDI published and distributed *State Responses to Domestic Violence: Current Status and Needed Improvements*, a resource for Governments and non-governmental organizations. The publication, which has been translated into Russian, Ukrainian and Spanish, outlines the United Nations human rights instruments that support the obligation to adopt domestic violence legislation and provides a model for drafting such legislation. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women presented findings from WLDI's research on domestic violence to the Commission on Human Rights at its 1996 session. At that time, WLDI undertook to conduct a global survey of legal responses to rape at the behest of the Special Rapporteur.

Also in 1996, WLDI used its consultative status with the United Nations to support the extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur. To that end, WLDI designed a lobbying strategy, and a WLDI representative attended 1996 sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, to lobby key United Nations officials to support the extension.

**1997**

In 1997, WLDI completed the study *State Responses to Rape* for the Special Rapporteur, based on a worldwide survey of rape laws. A WLDI representative presented the study and an oral statement before the Commission on Human Rights regarding needed improvements in law, policy and practice related to rape. At the Commission, WLDI also lobbied for strong resolutions on the topic and for the extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for another three years.

In July WLDI published *Women's Human Rights Step by Step: A Practical Guide to Using International Human Rights Law and Mechanisms to Defend Women's Human Rights*. The manual describes in a simple, practical style the concepts and content of human rights law and its application to women. Designed as

a basic guide to the operation of United Nations human rights mechanisms and strategies at the national, regional and international level, the manual explains why and how to use those strategies to promote and protect women's human rights.

WLDI prepared background material for the Special Rapporteur's report with a focus on violence against women in situations of armed conflict, particularly refugees and internally displaced women.

**1998**

In 1998, WLDI launched its *Human Rights Advanced Leadership Training for Women*. This global initiative aims to expand and deepen understanding of human rights advocacy and develop women's capacities to be influential advocates in national, regional and international forums. Using the *Women's Human Rights Step by Step* manual as a framework and principal resource, the project aims to develop the capacity of women to design and implement human rights advocacy strategies, bringing the law, policy and practice in their nations into line with international human rights norms. WLDI began this global capacity-building initiative with over 120 advocates from 22 countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the newly independent States.

Also in 1998, WLDI published and disseminated *Gender Violence: The Hidden War Crime*. This book is intended to serve as a resource for Governments and non-governmental organizations around the world as well as for the United Nations and the human rights community in addressing the issue of violence against women in situations of armed conflict.

## 13. World Economic Forum

**General consultative status granted in 1995**

Founded in 1971, the World Economic Forum acts in the spirit of entrepreneurship in the global public interest to further economic growth and social progress. The Forum, whose members are the 1,000 foremost global companies in the world today, is "committed to improving the state of the world". It brings together global leaders of business, politics, academia and other institutions of society to engage in processes of developing and sharing ideas, opinions and knowledge on the key issues of the global agenda. The Forum's basic conviction is that the challenges of a globalized world cannot be solved by Governments or by business alone. What is needed is a global partnership of leaders from Governments, business, academia, labour and the other institutions of civil society committed to improving the state of the world.

The Forum's meetings, particularly the Forum's annual meeting in Davos, have provided a unique platform for dialogue between leaders of United Nations organizations and business. The most significant indication of its recognized importance to the United Nations system came with Secretary-General Kofi Annan's choice of the annual meeting to launch his "Challenge to business", heralding a new era in the United Nations relationship with the world of commerce.

By reaching out to non-governmental organizations and by engaging in a constructive dialogue, the World Economic Forum aims to integrate civil society into discussions on setting the global agenda for the future. For many years, the

Forum has not only acted as a bridge-builder between the private and the public sectors but also as an integrator of civil society.

As part of its efforts to further economic growth and social progress, the Forum has undertaken a number of formal and informal initiatives related to the United Nations system. Furthermore, the Forum has developed a number of long-term initiatives to facilitate the dialogue between international organizations and the business community.

Various heads of United Nations programmes and agencies have participated in the annual meeting as well as regional summits for many years. The Forum's meetings do not only give them the opportunity to voice their ideas and ambitions in front of the top global corporate leaders and numerous political figures but also provide United Nations officials with the possibility to engage actively in networking with their counterparts from the private sector and civil society. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the President of the World Bank are just two examples of United Nations personalities actively participating in meetings of the World Economic Forum. The Informal Group of World Economic Leaders (IGWEL), which is held on the occasion of the annual meeting in Davos, provides a useful platform for heads of international organizations to engage in informal contacts. The number of United Nations participants in Davos in constantly growing.

In 1995, the World Economic Forum's President, Professor Klaus Schwab, was elected as an expert to the Committee on Development Planning, showing that the Forum's engagement with the United Nations is also subject to a strong personal commitment. In addition, Professor Schwab is engaged in ongoing consultations with officials of the United Nations Secretariat.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali participated in the annual meeting in 1995, and Kofi Annan visited the annual meetings in 1997 and 1998. Annan not only spoke on the panel directly addressing business leaders to engage in a partnership with the United Nations but also used his visit to consult with a variety of political figures on the spot, including Thabo Mbeki, Jerry Rawlings and Shimon Perez.

The themes of the annual meetings between 1995 and 1998 show that the social objectives of the World Economic Forum are in line with the ideals and mission of the United Nations. The 1995 theme, "Challenges beyond growth", marked the initiative for intensive discussions on future global development. One year later, the theme was "Sustaining globalization". The 1997 theme was "Building the network society", followed by "Priorities for the 21st Century" in 1998.

**1995**

In 1995, Boutros Boutros-Ghali delivered the opening address at the twenty-fifth annual meeting. The same year, Kofi Annan spoke at a session on selective security, discussing on what basis a "selection" of interventions should be made. Sadako Ogata and Maurice Strong delivered their views on what the United Nations should look like in the next century in a session entitled "Revitalizing our global structures".

Also in 1995, the World Economic Forum took members on a special trip to the Greater Mekong subregion, creating a new identity and new forms of

cooperation in that rapidly developing area. Furthermore, after having actively promoted the integration of Latin America into the world economy for many years, in 1995 the first Mercosur Economic Summit was held in Sao Paulo. The Summit was instrumental in overcoming a crisis situation (an automotive trade dispute between Argentina and Brazil) that threatened the existence of that newly emerging economic region.

**1996**

Countries of the Balkans came together for the annual meeting in a peace initiative designed to sustain and relay the reconciliation processes through the involvement of local and international business communities. The United Nations High Commissioner played a prominent role in that effort. Also in 1996, the Forum's first Central and Eastern European Economic Summit took place, bringing together different objectives and cultures on a regional basis.

**1997**

The 1997 annual meeting brought Secretary-General Kofi Annan to the podium with his special adviser on United Nations reform, Maurice Strong. The panel session discussed "A United Nations for the 21st Century". The director-general of the World Trade Organization was a prominent participant in the meeting just a few days before trade negotiators in Geneva reached a landmark agreement liberalizing telecommunications.

The special plenary message in Davos by Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa, highlighting the devastation of the AIDS pandemic in Africa, provided a moving framework for the session which brought the director of UNAIDS to the podium. It also underlined the long-term commitment of the Forum to support the reconciliation process in South Africa. (Five years earlier, in 1992, the Forum had arranged the first joint appearance of white and black leaders outside South Africa.) The annual meeting has been one of the few places regularly to offer African leaders a global forum.

**1998**

The newly elected Director-General of the World Health Organization, Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, agreed to be Rapporteur of the 1998 annual meeting and told participants that she wanted societies to discover the key role of public health in development, eradicating poverty and providing decent nutrition.

The head of the World Bank's Environment Department and chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change spoke about global warming and the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention was invited to a session on the global problem and strategies for the twenty-first century.

During the period under review, the Business Consultative Group was created to bring together over 30 heads of business associations from around the world with heads of several United Nations bodies. The first meeting took place in Davos at the 1998 annual meeting. The aim of this innovative initiative on the part of the World Economic Forum is to offer the United Nations the support of business and create a

permanent relationship between the business community and the United Nations system.

Also in 1998 *The Africa Competitiveness Report* was published for the first time. This new study, undertaken on a region's competitiveness, was based on the model of the successful *Global Competitiveness Report*. It was the first comprehensive competitiveness study on the African continent.

In many ways the World Economic Forum is putting into practice the network to find global solutions embraced by the Secretary-General. In the future, as in the past, the Forum sees the opportunity it provides for dialogue between the United Nations senior officials and international business, leading academics in science and economics, and media leaders as a valuable function it can perform in encouraging the joint search for "responsible globality". The World Economic Forum's shift from an event-focused to a process-oriented organization offers the scope for even closer, intensive collaboration with the United Nations. But the Forum also embraces a larger goal shared by the United Nations. As phrased by Professor Schwab in his opening address to the 1999 annual meeting: "We [...] need a new ethic of globality [...], of a sense of responsibility of caring for the neighbours in our global village [and] for our ecological integrity". And he added a sentiment that reflects the ethical basis of the United Nations: "The most crucial value in a world of globality is the tolerance for religious, ideological, ethnic and historical differences".